

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 01467 141951Z

60
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 PC-04 /121 W
----- 098635

R 141920Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2462
INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 1467

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, GT
SUBJECT: RIOS MONTT APPARENTLY CONCEDES

1. ON MARCH 13, OPPOSITION FRONT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE GENERAL EFRAIN RIOS MONTT GAVE PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE APPARENTLY CONCEDED DEFEAT. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD WEAR STRICT MOURNING CLOTHERS SHOWING HIS "PEACEFUL RESISTANCE" TO GOG IMPOSITION. HE NOTED THAT PEOPLE HAD NOT RESPONDED TO HIS CALL FOR GENERAL STRIKE TO PARALYZE COUNTRY. HE SAID HE WOULD REMAIN IN GUATEMALA BECAUSE HE "DID NOT HAVE THE MONEY TO GO TO EL SALVADOR." RIOS SAID HE REMAINED A PERSONAL FRIEND OF LAUGERUD, WHO HE ASSERTED HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE FRAUD CARRIED OUT BY MLN. HE SAID HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANY PUBLIC POSITION; BUT IF RECALLED TO SERVE BY THE ARMY COMMAND, HE WOULD ACCEPT.

2. RIOS DECLARED THAT "MANY WOULD HAVE LIKED HIM TO
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ORDER SUBVERSION" AGAINST THE GOG BUT HE OPPOSED THAT.

HE SAID HE COULD NOT HAVE PROMOTED A COUP D'ETAT BY THE ARMY BECAUSE THAT WOULD HAVE CONSTITUTED PATRICIDE FOR HIM. RIOS ALSO DECLARED THAT HE WAS NOT SAD BUT ONLY SHAMED BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT, CONGRESS, AND THE PEOPLE KNOW THAT HE WON THE ELECTIONS.

3. COMMENT: RIOS' PRESS CONFERENCE APPEARS TO REMOVE HIM FROM ANY POSITION OF EFFECTIVE OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT. INDEED, HIS REMARK CONCERNING RECALL TO ARMY ALMOST APPEARS AS THOUGH HE WERE FISHING FOR AN APPOINTMENT.
MELOY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005